

10 March 1953

*changes + AWD + LB + RB 12:15 10 March*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: SE-39: SUGGESTED PARAGRAPHS TO LEAD OFF SECTION II

II. PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEATH OF STALIN

A. Effects on the Bases of Soviet Power

The economic and military bases of Soviet power are unlikely to be immediately affected by Stalin's death. However, it may shake the political base of Soviet power and reduce the ability of the new leadership to maintain and strengthen the economic and military bases of Soviet power.

*hence*  
~~on Western as not~~ *the effect is* any Western diplomatic or psychological moves ~~would affect~~ Soviet stability and strength cannot be estimated without knowledge of the contemplated moves. However, if the West, over the coming months and years, can show calm unity and can increase its economic and military power, difficult divisive policy issues may be created within the new Soviet leadership. The discord and conflict caused by these divisive issues would probably be increased by personal rivalries for power, and would reduce Soviet power and the cohesion of the international Communist movement.

*Strength*

CHERMAN KENT  
 Assistant Director, NSC

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*apart from any results obtainable by such actions*  
*of such dup'ic op'ed. actions.*

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A. Effects on the Bases of Soviet Power

The economic and military bases of Soviet power are unlikely to be immediately affected by Stalin's death. However, it may shake the political base of Soviet power and reduce the ability of the new leadership to maintain and strengthen the economic and military bases of Soviet power.

Whether or not any Western diplomatic or psychological moves would affect Soviet stability and strength cannot be estimated without knowledge of the contemplated moves. However, if the West, over the coming months and years, can show calm unity and can increase its economic and military power, difficult divisive policy issues may be created within the new Soviet leadership. The discord and conflict caused by these divisive issues would probably be increased by personal rivalries for power, and would reduce Soviet power and the cohesion of the international Communist movement.

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director, NE

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